

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
JAN BREWER



GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
2009-2010

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 AT 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR BREWER'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DIVISION FOR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 101
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, 85007
PHONE: (602) 542-3422 • FAX: (602) 542-3423
EMAIL: CBODINGTON@AZ.GOV

What does it mean to be a Commissioner?

Youth Voice

Andres Cano, Tucson

There is nothing more satisfying than being able to voice your opinion; indeed, as teenagers, it isn't something we often get to do. Arizona is fearless in its approach to highlighting the issues facing our younger population. The Governor's Youth Commission recognizes the complexities and effects of these problems, such as how youth experiencing homelessness and underage drinking cripples lives across the state. Through their service, commissioners gain awareness about their surroundings. They advocate for initiatives important to them, and demonstrate a strong interest in improving the welfare of their peers. A price tag cannot be put on such an opportunity—this truly is something that is earned through hard work, and a sincere desire to enrich your high school experience.



Changing Arizona

Natalie Lucas, Flagstaff

I have had the honor of serving on the Governor's Youth Commission for three years, and it has been one of my best experiences. It has opened doors that I never thought possible. I have learned and assisted in issues dealing with youth around the state, and have also made incredible friends. Most importantly, I have learned important life skills and have accomplished things that have made a difference in Arizona.

Service Work

Courtney Rothwell, Phoenix

Volunteering with the Governor's Youth Commission has given me the opportunity to see how critical issues affect different people and communities across Arizona. We have spent time traveling to several counties to help in a variety of projects, such as an environmental cleanup in Gila County and serving meals to homeless men, women and children in downtown Phoenix. Working with other commissioners and volunteers has brought insight to my life, and my knowledge of the diverse issues which affect other communities has improved greatly.

Community Outreach

Hannah Nunez, Phoenix

I attended a community forum for domestic violence victims. I heard from several recovering victims, and was informed on the different causes of domestic violence. Attendees later split into groups to develop solutions to help victims. By the end of the day, I found myself truly interested and inspired by the stories told by the brave women speakers.

Networking Opportunities

Andrew Conlogue, Sierra Vista

As a member, I was asked to join a youth panel for the Governor's Foundation Roundtable. In a room full of powerful businessmen and high-ranking government officials, I was seated directly next to the Governor. I got to speak my mind about the things that mattered most to me with the Governor of my state listening attentively all the while. That kind of experience only happens in one organization.

What is the Governor's Youth Commission?

PURPOSE

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) advises the Governor and Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families on issues affecting youth in Arizona.

MISSION

The mission of the Governor's Youth Commission is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning, increased awareness of community issues, and civic participation.

MEMBERS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Governor's Youth Commission is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population, and is composed of 36 members from different parts of the state. Each year, members work together on different projects that impact youth across Arizona.

In July 2008, Commissioners adopted to address four focus areas which they believed were important to improving the lives of Arizona's youth. Four committees were created dedicated to researching the following issues:

- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Preventing Domestic Violence
- Improving Education

Additionally, Commissioners chose to adjust the structure of the GYC's quarterly meetings. Beginning in July 2008, quarterly meetings will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each meeting will feature four different components:

- Researching and developing youth policy recommendations for the Governor, the Governor's Office and the State of Arizona.
- Attending trainings by expert instructors on vital leadership development skills.
- Participating in service projects related to the various challenges Arizona faces.
- Reflecting on past accomplishments and experiences while serving as a Commissioner.

Although the GYC as a whole only meets four times a year, Commissioners are required to work on their respective policy recommendations throughout the year. Committee meetings are held several times a month through conference calls.

Commissioners are also asked to commit to doing volunteer work, and are encouraged, although not required, to work in agencies that provide services in the field they are researching. For example, Commissioners who are members of the Committee on Youth Experiencing Homelessness may work at organizations that offer services to homeless youth. The ultimate goal of this project is for the Commissioners to gain real life knowledge of the issue they are working to change.

Finally, the policy recommendations made by each committee will be compiled in an end of the year report that will be distributed to the appropriate policy makers and state agencies. Our intent is to provide Arizona's elected officials with solutions to youth issues from youth leaders themselves.

What are some of the GYC's accomplishments?

In the past, the Governor's Youth Commissioners has:

- Administered a \$40,000 Alcohol Retailer Mapping in Proximity to Youth Mini-Grant.
- Facilitated an underage drinking prevention workshop at the 10th Annual National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Hosted the 2nd Youth Leadership Day, an event attended by nearly 250 members representing over 30 different youth organizations at the Phoenix Convention Center for a day of civic participation. Youth attended skill development workshops, were informed of leadership opportunities, and had the opportunity to meet with Governor's Cabinet members and agency officials.
- Conducted six focus groups which invited parents from across Arizona to discuss issues related to youth and alcohol. The data collected was used in the Underage Drinking in Arizona Data Findings 2007 Report and helped to develop a statewide media campaign.
- Learned how to make policy recommendations and how to approach youth issues through expert speakers from Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy, the Governor's Division for Children, the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Children's Action Alliance.
- Was an integral part of the launching of *Draw the Line*, a statewide media campaign directed at changing adult attitudes and behaviors towards underage drinking.
- Participated in the Governor's 14th Annual National and Community Service Conference.
- Awarded the 2008 Youth Education & Enforcement – Outstanding Enforcement award from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Mother's Against Drunk Driving.

Eligibility

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2009-2010 school year. Please note that the GYC is seeking applicants who represent the diverse and unique nature of Arizona's counties.

Requirements

Being a commissioner requires a high degree of commitment. Before applying, please make sure that you are able to dedicate a sufficient amount of time to the organization.

Commissioners are expected to:

- Attend four meetings a year held in various locations throughout Arizona.
- Contribute to the planning and execution of the GYC's special events and activities.
- Actively participate in committee meetings and conference calls.
- Participate in individual or group service projects.
- Communicate via e-mail, phone, or the GYC's website (members are expected to check their e-mail on a daily basis).
- Provide their own transportation to and from meetings. Carpools are provided by Governor's Office staff from the State Capitol to the meeting location and back.
- Serve as a role model and adhere to a high code of conduct.
- Serve as a liaison to other youth.

In addition to the above requirements, each Commissioner must also have an adult mentor or advisor who he/she can turn to for help and support when completing projects. Mentors or advisors can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent. During the coming year, there may be opportunities for Commissioners and their mentors to attend an event together.

Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
Governor's Youth Commission
2009-2010

Application Process

The GYC recruitment process consists of an application and interview. All youth who are eligible to apply must follow the application instructions below. Finalists will be invited to interview on May 8th and 9th. Decisions are tentatively scheduled to be made during the week of June 8th.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A complete application consists of:

- Membership Application: Personal Information (Page 6).
- Completed Questionnaire (Page 7).
- Resume detailing current and past community and school involvement (limit to one page).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter **MUST** be from a teacher, faculty member or youth group leader. The second letter **MUST** be from your mentor, which can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent.

Applications should not be in a binder, report cover or folder. Please use a staple or paper clip to hold your application together.

Complete applications can be mailed, faxed or delivered in person to:

Christopher Bodington
Youth Development Program Administrator
Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
State Capitol, Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 101
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Fax: (602) 542-3423 (*please call to confirm that we have received your application*)

Applications MUST be RECEIVED by Friday, April 17, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact Christopher Bodington at (602) 542-3422, or through e-mail at cbodington@az.gov if you require any additional information.



Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
Governor's Youth Commission
2009-2010

Membership Application: Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____

Zip: _____ Ethnicity (optional): _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Birthday: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name(s): _____

What grade will you be in during the 2009-2010 school year?: _____

School's Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Principal's Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Adult Advisor/Mentor Information

Name: _____

Position: _____

How is this person related/associated with you? _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families
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Questionnaire

Part I

The GYC's first meeting and orientation is tentatively scheduled to be July 28-31, 2009 in Flagstaff, AZ in conjunction with the Governor's 15th Annual National and Community Service Conference. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** Please confirm that you will be able to attend the meeting and conference. If you cannot attend, please state the reason(s) why. (Note: school excuses, mileage reimbursement, hotel rooms, meals, and carpools from the State Capitol and back are provided for all meetings as needed.)

Part II

Please respond to the following questions. Your answers must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Please DO NOT include any additional information (newspaper articles, photographs, etc.).

1. What interests you about becoming a GYC member?
2. What can you contribute to the GYC? How will your background or experiences add to our mission?
3. Describe in detail a time during your life when you overcame significant adversity.
4. One of our responsibilities is to advise the Governor on issues that are important to youth in Arizona. If you could choose one youth issue to advise the Governor, what would it be, why and what would you recommend?

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